Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 176180 TOSEC 080045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: DRAFT RESPONSE TO CLARK LETTER

REF.: SECTO 08009

1. PER REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED RESPONSE TO CLARK LETTER:

QUOTE. THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF JULY 6TH, WHICH ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED TOWER AMENDMENT TO S. 2571, THE FY 1979 MILITARY PROCUREMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL.

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IF ENACTED, THE TOWER AMENDMENT WOULD REPEAL THE "TUNNEY AMENDMENT" CONTAINED IN TITLE IV OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATION ACT OF 1976 (90 STAT. 166). ACCORDINGLY, THE TUNNEY AMENDMENT'S PROHIBITION AGAINST THE USE OF FUNDS IN ANGOLA WOULD NO LONGER APPLY TO ANY FUNDS WHICH MAY STILL BE AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION UNDER THE RELEVANT PARAGRAPH IN TITLE IV OF THE 1976 APPROPRIATION ACT. ANY

SUCH FUNDS WOULD CEASE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1978, ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE 1976 ACT.

NOTHING IN THE TEXT OF THE TOWER AMENDMENT AFFECTS SECTION 404 OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976 (PUBLIC LAW 94-329), WHICH PROHIBITS ASSISTANCE OF ANY KIND WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF PROMOTING MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA UNLESS EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY LAW. WHILE THE TOWER AMENDMENT WOULD REPEAL ONE TEMPORARY LIMITATION ON THE USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS IN ANGOLA, IT CLEARLY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION AS CONTEMPLATED BY SECTION 404 OF P.L. 94-329.

AS YOU INDIATED IN YOUR LETTER, THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID HE HAS NO INTENTION OF GETTING INVOLVED IN ANY CONFLICT IN ANGOLA AND HE HAS NO INTENTION OF URGING REPEAL OF THE CLARK AMENDMENT. THIS CONTINUES TO BE OUR POLICY. THE TOWER AMENDMENT APPEARS TO HAVE NO EFFECT ON EITHER THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OR THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ANGOLA. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE NO POSITION ON THIS AMENDMENT.

I TRUST YOU FIND THE FOREGOING IS RESPONSIVE TO YOUR QUESTIONS. UNQUOTE. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. FOREGOING LETTER TO BE SIGNED BY DOUG BENNET (H). CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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